

# Town of Abita Springs, La.

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ATTORNEY  
EDWARD DEANO  
  
CERTIFIED BUILDING OFFICIAL  
DAVID CHATELAIN  
  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
JOHNNY CLAY  
  
PUBLIC WORKS CLERK  
REE STANSBURY



MAYOR  
GREG LEMONS

ALDERMEN  
GINA KILPATRICK HARPER  
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)  
  
PATRICK BERRIGAN  
DANIEL J. CURTIS  
RYAN MURPHY  
LESLIE BLITCH WELLIVER  
  
UTILITY MANAGER  
DEBRA MACLEAN  
  
UTILITY CLERK II  
LINDA MEEKER  
  
PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR  
CINDY CHATELAIN  
  
TOWN MARSHALL  
JOE CANDILORA

The following minutes were taken at the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on December 8, 2015 at the Town Hall in Abita Springs. Mayor Lemons called the meeting to order.

Alderman Berrigan gave the invocation; the pledge of allegiance was led by Alderman Murphy.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Mayor Lemons opened the hearing to discuss INSTRUMENT 2015-008 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016. The Mayor began by covering points from the Budget Message, highlighting each fund and explaining some small format changes. During the public comment period, a local resident expressed concern over management of the utility fund. The resident stated that the natural gas and garbage components are providing revenue to offset expenses incurred by water and sewer services. Also mentioned was an apparent deficit in the General Fund. Town Financial Clerk Niki Mendow explained that the referenced deficit should not persist once necessary adjustments to the classification of expenses is complete. While it was recognized that gas revenue helped offset water and sewer deficiencies also acknowledged was that the Town gas rates are competitive within the region. The hearing concluded with discussion of an amendment to the introductory paragraph of the budget instrument, which requires notification by the Mayor to the Board of certain budgetary changes in excess of 5%. Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver.

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Lemons recognized Keith Rodriguez as Employee of the Month. The Mayor announced Mr. Rodriguez's upcoming retirement and commended him for his long time dedicated service to the Town.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Aldermen Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver were present. Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to accept the November 17, 2015 Town Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Alderman Murphy. All were in favor.

## **STPSO:**

Lt. Williams gave a brief report of calls. The Lieutenant informed residents of a problem with the theft of packages during this holiday season.

## **FIRE DISTRICT 8:**

Chief Gorrondona summarized calls for the month and recapped annual incidents. The Chief announced his retirement adding that it was a pleasure to serve with the district. Mayor Lemons praised and thanked the Chief. Alderman Curtis also commended Chief Gorrondona for his overall exceptional contribution.

**TOWN MARSHAL:**

Marshal Candilora presented his monthly report of code violations. The Marshal noted that complaint issues related to overflowing garbage receptacles and the improper use of a propane tank.

**TOWN ENGINEER:**

Mayor Lemons advised that the street overlay project is complete and financial review is underway.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt an amendment to INSTRUMENT 2015-008 an ordinance to adopt the 2016 annual budget, seconded by Alderman Murphy. The amendment added the requirement that the Mayor notify the Board of transfers exceeding 5% and a provision for approval through resolution of transfers in excess of 10%. The vote was Yeas 5, Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper moved to adopt as amended INSTRUMENT 2015-008 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016, seconded by Alderman Curtis. The vote was Yeas 5, Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Alderman Blitch Welliver moved to adopt a RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO ALLOW THE TWO ENTITIES TO SHARE PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES THAT COULD BE OFFERED BY THE TOWN AND THE CITY TO EACH OTHER WHICH WOULD JUSTLY SERVE IN A PUBLIC PURPOSE, seconded by Alderman Murphy. The vote was Yeas 5, Alderman Berrigan, Curtis, Kilpatrick-Harper, Murphy, and Blitch Welliver, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0.

**OPEN-ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A local resident inquired as to the status of the repair of the Town Center electronic sign. The administration responded that every effort is being made to have the sign repaired but cannot speculate on a repair date.

Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper mentioned the upcoming Town Christmas Santa Ride and photos with Santa at Town Hall. The Alderman advised Town Hall will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day.

Alderman Murphy moved to adjourn the Town Council Meeting, seconded by Alderman Kilpatrick-Harper.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 8th DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

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Kathy Armand, Town Clerk

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Honorable Greg Lemons, Mayor